

BOB GRAHAM, (S. 1281) to authorize further funding and oversight of the Department of Defense and Institute of Medicine activities to identify the causes of, and treatments for, injuries related to exposures to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental dangers by service members.

The bill also contains various measures to assure that, despite the enactment of the significant improvements contained within the bill, the bill will nonetheless be in compliance with Budget Enforcement Act strictures against the enactment of "mandatory account" spending measures without accompanying "pay-go" offsets.

S. 1132, as amended, is good legislation that is supported, on a bipartisan basis, by all of the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Further, its key provisions are supported by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi and by the major veterans' service organizations. I ask that the Senate approve it.

NOMINATION FOR THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the nomination of Mr. Stuart Ishimaru to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Department of Labor was approved today by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and I look forward to prompt confirmation of this qualified nominee by the full Senate.

Mr. Ishimaru brings a distinguished legal background and a demonstrated commitment to public service to the position.

For 10 years he served as counsel to the House Judiciary and Armed Services Committees and was a counsel and deputy assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Attorney General Janet Reno.

Through these positions he has helped enforce the great civil rights laws we have enacted over the last 50 years, from protections for the elderly, to protections for people with disabilities, to protection from discrimination in the workplace. And he has done so with a sense of fairness, compassion, and integrity that has earned him wide respect. I know he will continue his excellent work by enforcing our Nation's employment laws at the EEOC.

I urge my colleagues to support this well qualified nominee to the EEOC.

THE NATION'S HOSPITALS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, hospitals in the United States have enormous responsibility. The Nation's hospitals care for patients, perform surgeries, train interns, research cures to diseases, and provide millions of dollars annually for the uninsured. Their services improve Americans' health and lives and better our communities. I laud their service to Colorado and the Nation.

Recently Solucient, a company that provides health care data to improve health care results, published its list of the Nation's 100 top hospitals. Four of Solucient's designees are Colorado hospitals: Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, Rose Medical Center in Denver, Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, and Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge. Solucient determines its selection of top hospitals according to hospitals' consistent and superior quality care, financial performance, and efficient delivery of care. According to Solucient, the Top 100 hospitals treat more, and sicker, patients with better survival rates and fewer complications.

I am pleased to acknowledge Solucient's selection of Colorado hospitals for its quality service, dedication, and commitment to providing quality health care for Colorado, the Nation, and the world. First, Solucient has recognized Saint Joe's Hospital in Denver in its studies of orthopedic and intensive care units. According to the hospital, Saint Joe delivers more babies than any other Colorado hospital, serves more patients in gastroenterology, general surgery, pulmonology, cardiac care, nephrology and rheumatology than any other acute care hospital in the Denver metropolitan area, and for the past 5 years the hospital has cared for more cardiology and open heart surgery patients than any other acute care hospital in the metro area.

Second, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center specializes in cardiology, oncology, orthopedic services, and women's health care. Lutheran Medical also provides special care to the community through its community clinics, special programs and services for the elderly, and hospice care. In addition, Lutheran Medical Center's Emergency Department has the second highest patient load in the Denver metropolitan area.

Third, with a mission of commitment to patients, Rose Medical Center in Denver asserts a reputation for high quality health care and quality customer service. Rose Medical Center specializes in women's health services, general surgery, internal medicine, pediatric care, and emergency services. Rose Medical Center also partners with philanthropic organizations to help offer services to the Colorado community. Further, Rose Medical Center is the official health care provider for the Denver Nuggets professional basketball team and the Colorado Avalanche professional hockey team.

Fourth, Solucient recognized a teaching hospital in Englewood, Colorado, Swedish Medical Center, which has six "Centers of Excellence": the Colorado Neurological Institute, adult & pediatric trauma services, advanced radiology capabilities, cardiology services, cancer treatment services, and women's and children's services. In addition, Swedish is a Level I Trauma Center and is a leading referral center for neurotrauma. Swedish also offers services for the elderly, emergency medical

service education, and has a Family Medicine Residency Program.

I am pleased these Colorado hospitals have been recognized as leaders in quality, efficiency, and financial responsibility in institutional health care. I laud their work and am expectant for their continued high quality of care and progress for Colorado and the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. MARTHA RHODES ROBERTS

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a fine humanitarian and Floridian, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts, who is retiring on October 31. Throughout her 34-year career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts has contributed to Florida's agriculture food safety industry as a scientific authority, industry counselor, strategist, and partner in the endeavors of Florida agricultural producers. She has become an expert on minimizing food contamination for consumers, by helping to develop safer standards in food processing. Dr. Rhodes Roberts' dedication to safe food practices has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

Since beginning her career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a microbiologist in the Food Laboratory in 1968, Dr. Roberts has been a tireless advocate to ensure the food Americans eat is safe and abundant while at the same time helping the agricultural community to minimize their impacts on the environment. In addition to these achievements, she has the distinction of serving as the first female Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for a State agency in the country. During her tenure at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Roberts was instrumental in Florida's food safety program becoming one of the preeminent State food safety programs in the country. She also has overseen the divisions of pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, agricultural water policy, soil and water conservation, animal feeds, aquaculture and dairy and animal industries during her long career with the department.

Dr. Roberts has served on several Federal advisory groups for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and she has served as president of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, comprised of all States, FDA and USDA. She was instrumental in organizing the Conference for Food Protection, a national body to set food safety standards for all States. Dr. Roberts is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists' Science Advisory Board, which provides scientific review and analysis of issues in food safety, food processing